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Publications mail agreement # 40063862

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Report details integrity of AH bridges and culverts

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Each of Algonquin Highlands' five bridges are structurally sound.

Adam Thorn, the township's public works manager, delivered inspection results to council during its Oct. 13 regular meeting. He said the joint project with Haliburton County was the second of three inspections.

"Everything turned out really well on the bridges," he said. "The overall condition is good. No major repairs required."

Any minor repairs will be folded into the 2023 maintenance budget.

To secure better pricing due to setup costs for the consultant, a request for proposal stated that the successful proponent would be retained for two cycles with the option for a third cycle subject to satisfactory performance (2020, 2022 and 2024).

Keystone Bridge Management Corporation performed inspections, provided comments, service life, and estimated replacement values on five bridges.

The 28-year-old Bear Lake Road Bridge was deemed to be in good serviceable condition.

see PANDEMIC page 2



Gardens yields smiles

Charlotte Gage, five, of Haliburton explores the bouncy castle at the Fall Festival at the Gardens event on Oct. 15 at Abbey Gardens. See more photos on page 4. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff

More money needed for Sedgwick Bridge

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Tulloch Engineering is requesting an additional \$20,000 in project engineering fees for work at the Sedgwick Bridge.

But, while council approved the coin to cover the additional engineering costs, it was

decided during the regular meeting Oct. 13 that payment won't be made until the satisfactory completion of the project.

The additional \$20,000, plus HST, in engineering fees is recommended by Public Works staff to be funded through the Roads Capital Reserve. The use of funds in reserves for one-time unexpected costs helps mitigate the impact on the tax levy.

As of Dec. 31, 2021, the Roads Capital Reserve balance is about \$2.3 million, with approximately \$420,000 specifically earmarked for bridges.

Tulloch cites challenging soil conditions and higher than expected inflation as reasoning for this fee increase request.

"The request represents a small percentage

see POLICY page 2

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Pandemic and supply chain challenges will increase costs

from page 1

tion. There was some decay present in the southwest corner abutment crib that will require partial replacement of timbers in a few years.

Its replacement value is pegged to be \$3,380,000.

Consultants said the 77-year-old Buckslide Dam Bridge should be considered as two structures. The new bridge spans the old structure and is in good condition. The original structure carries the water from the dam overflow and appears to be an old T-Beam structure possibly extended to the north with a concrete culvert.

Due to the high velocity flow through the original structure, the 2020 inspection of the original structure was from a distance. The condition of the north end of the culvert structure appeared good and engineers were unable to access the south end. Its replacement value is \$1,218,000.

“When it comes time to further inspection, repairs, or even a rebuild, we would definitely need to have other agencies involved with that,” Thorn said.

The St. Peters Bridge, which is 60 years old, was assessed and is in good condition. The main concern is the missing drainage tubes at the bridge corners.

“Current damage is minimal, extensions should be replaced to prevent further damage to the girder ends and bearing seats,” engineers noted in the report to council. Its replacement value is \$3,075,000.

The 33-year-old Dawson Road culvert was deemed to be in good condition. Its replacement value is \$590,000.

The 49-year-old Airport Road Bridge is in overall very

good condition. There is no warrant for rehabilitation at this time. There is consideration to replace joint seals as a maintenance activity. Its replacement value is \$3,181,000.

Ward 3 Councillor Jennifer Dailoux asked if the replacement costs were set in stone.

“When the end of the life cycle of any bridge comes to pass, there might be a redesign,” she said. “[There may be] thinking about how a bridge might be crafted differently to reduce the overall cost.”

Thorn said the replacement costs reflect the price to duplicate the existing structure.

“These costs that are replacement values listed in the report are based on if the bridge was to fail today and be replaced tomorrow,” Thorn said. “It would be taking one bridge out, replacing it with the exact same style and material as what’s currently there.”

Public Works stockpiles sand for winter

Township officials received a pair of bids for the screening and stockpiling of winter sand.

A request for proposals was issued Sept. 8 and closed Sept. 28. Bids came in from Hawk River Construction at \$69,000 plus applicable tax and Francis Thomas Contracting for \$45,919 plus applicable tax.

Public Works initially earmarked \$45,000 for the material.

Although the bid from Frances Thomas Contracting is over budget by \$919, plus applicable tax, council awarded them the contract. The overage will be funded from the regular operational budget.

“Both of them were over budget, but one of them was slightly over budget,” Thorn said.

During the budget process this time last year, quite a few projects were coming in way under budget, he said.

“I think that had a lot of do with fuel costs,” Thorn said. “Due to the increased costs and the unknown, I think a lot of places were scared of that and were trying to cover themselves.”

Many more companies have gotten comfortable with their fuel surcharges.

He said he expects continuous increases on projects over the next two years. And that will be because of fuel prices.

Mayor Carol Moffatt said council experiences a tough time with every municipal budget process and prices are increasing for everything.

“The residual effects of the pandemic and supply chain challenges will make the next budget process quite a challenge,” she said. “There’s more of a pent-up capital demand than there is money to fund them.”

The overage for the winter sand might be made up from the extra coin after the purchase of two brine tanks came in below budget.

In the 2022 operating budget, staff earmarked \$50,000 for the purchase of two brine tanks to be purchased for the storage of liquid calcium for road dust suppression operations.

Staff got one bid from a Sept. 8 RFP: Road Maintenance Equipment and Service Inc. offered the tanks for \$36,900 plus applicable tax.

Policy for electronic monitoring of staff outlined

from page 1

of the overall project costs,” said Waste Facilities manager Nikki Payne, who spoke on behalf of Public Works manager Mike Timmins.

“So it’s the opinion of staff that this is a reasonable request.”

Payne said there’s been good overall progress at Sedgwick Bridge, even though the project is about two weeks behind schedule. The superstructure has been installed and concrete wing walls have been poured.

Guard rails still need to be installed and road grading on its approaches needs to be completed. Paving may be pushed to spring of 2023, weather permitting.

Work on the bridge is expected to be finished in November.

This has been the only request for additional funds thus far for this project and the request represents a small percentage of the overall project cost.

GMP Contracting was awarded \$1,185,270.89, excluding HST, for the project’s construction portion.

The 2022 capital budget for Sedgwick Bridge includes \$50,000 to be funded through taxation to support engineering costs. To date, \$36,186 has been incurred, with the remainder expected to be incurred as per the service extension approved Dec. 10, 2020.

So additional funding is required to support the fee increase request.

“Less than two per cent variant on a million-dollar project doesn’t seem unreasonable,” said Mayor Brent Devolin.

Bob Carter, councillor for Ward 1, suggested the township hold back paying the contractor until the project is completed.

“We should make sure that all the engineering work was done perfectly before we decide to give them some extra money,” he said.

Trisha McKibbin, the town’s CAO, said four weeks remain before the work’s projected completion and holding off payment is a reasonable request they can put to the contractor.

“We can make the resolution here to approve that additional \$20,000, with the understanding that payment will be made at the conclusion of the project,” McKibbin said.

Rink concessions supplied out of community centre

Community Services director Craig Belfry said staff has had positive meetings with the Haliburton County Huskies, the local Ontario Junior Hockey league contingent, and their

food and beverage contractor.

Belfry said Oct. 29 will be the start of concessions service that will be run out of the community centre kitchen. Hours of operation will evolve over the course of the season.

“Hopefully that’ll provide some food and beverage services to the facility until we get the new permanent service in place,” he said.

Belfry said they’re starting to see things coming back to all the facilities.

Three rink attendants and four student recreation attendants have been hired.

“It’s great we’re starting to see students starting to come into the building and work for us,” he said.

Township reveals policy for monitoring employees

Council received the township’s policy regarding electronically monitoring municipal workers.

Under the new provincial Working for Workers Act, employers with more than 25 employees were required to put in a place a written electronic monitoring policy by Oct. 11, 2022.

The purpose of the policy, which is now required under the Employment Standards Act, is to provide transparency to employees about how, when, and under what circumstances employees may be electronically monitored.

The policy must also indicate how the monitored information will be used by the employer, the date on which the policy is prepared, and the date on which any changes are made to the policy.

Further, the policy must be provided to employees within 30 days from the date of enactment and within 30 days of any changes being made. It must be provided to new employees within 30 days of their start date.

If they are a temporary worker, it must be provided within 24 hours of the start of their assignment.

“We have followed the policy that the county has created as well, so there’s consistency amongst both Minden Hills and the county,” McKibbin said.

According to the policy: “The Township of Minden Hills makes use of a variety of electronic systems to support communication and information sharing and to ensure the safety and security of Township staff, property and resources.

“In general, these systems are monitored for accounting and security purposes, however, the Township of Minden

Hills reserves the right to review and access all information contained within its systems at any time to confirm compliance with policy.”

The township monitors access to properties with the use of electronic fobs and security codes. This monitoring is in place for accounting and security purposes.

The township uses video surveillance at some locations to assist with security and safety concerns. Please refer to Video Surveillance System Policy 124.

All use of township internet and email systems are identifiable by user, device, and device location.

Township vehicles are electronically monitored with global positioning system technology.



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The Times
MINDEN ONTARIO

Finding frights brings joy and benefits community

Haunted Forest Walk returns to elicit “jump scares” from visitors

by **DARREN LUM**
Times Staff

There's going to be plenty of scares and smiles for those who are ready to brave the Haunted Forest Walk this year.

It's a return for the event after its inaugural year, which not only brought shrieks of delight, but also managed to collect non-perishables and raise close to \$1,100 for the Minden Food Bank.

Rachael Velkovski and her husband Allan are leading this effort and love to see and hear the reactions of the people that come, but also the opportunity to give back.

“I really love getting the people in the community out and scaring them. I mean, it's great. You know, you hear people laughing and screaming and everyone's having a good time. And at the end the end result is all the money that you raised for the community is going back to the community. We don't keep anything for ourselves,” she said.

She said this event is something she really loves to organize. Plenty of thought goes into it. The props come from all over Canada and the US. The entire forest takes about a week to set up.

“It makes all the hard work worth it when you see everybody having such a great time,” she said.

Velkovski said last year there were more than 350 people who passed through her stand of woods, and with each person paying \$2 the event helped to raise just under \$1,100 for the Minden Food Bank.

This scare seeker hopes to draw 500 people this year and has seen a strong reaction from people through her Facebook page. The goal is to raise \$2,000 to benefit different recipients such as the Minden Food Bank and possibly Wound Warriors, a mental health service provider, which supports veterans, first responders and their families, including others.

“We haven't quite locked down which charity. I think it depends on how much we get. We want to try to spread it out through-



The Haunted Forest Walk, which provide scares and laughter and help to benefit the community is from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 28, Saturday, Oct. 29 and Sunday, Oct. 30. For more information use mindenhauntedforestwalk@hotmail.com /FILE photo submitted

out the community as best as we can,” she said.

Although the \$3 admission is higher than last year to take the spooky one kilometre walk, it's still an affordable night out for a family of five, Velkovski said.

Besides the portion of admission to be donated, the event also welcomes donations of non-perishables for the food bank.

Visitors to the forest this year will be surprised with new themes to add to what was presented in the form of graveyards and the scary wedding in a cornfield scene last year.

Velkovski said she is thankful for the close to two dozen volunteers, who have been wonderful for her in setting the stage for scares.

“They come out in costume. They just love scaring people. They really are committed to it ... they know it's for a good cause and that's why I think they come out because

they want to give back to the community as well,” she said.

The origin of the event came from something similar, which was held for Velkovski's nephews and step-children because of the health measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 kept public gatherings limited in 2020. When she saw their reactions she wanted to share it with the rest of the community.

Another aspect to the event is to provide a Halloween experience that isn't offered in the area.

“There's not very much for adults and teenagers so we try to kind of limit it to that because it can get quite scary,” she said.

Everybody that comes and walks through the forest will be given a treat at the end. Several hundred treats have been donated by St. Paul's Anglican Church in Minden.

The walk is from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

on Friday, Oct. 28, Saturday, Oct. 29 and Sunday, Oct. 30.

Find your frights and give back to the community by going to the Velkovski property at 1043 Turntable Drive in Minden, toward Kinmount. The event is not recommended for children under eight, or those that are easily scared.

This is a rain or shine event, but with a forest canopy any rain isn't expected to affect the experience, Velkovski said.

It's all for a good cause, good time for those taking the walk, those volunteering the scares and those organizing it.

“I love scaring people. It's the laughter. It's not a mean scare. It's a “jump” scare,” she said, referring to how people are scared with redirection while another person jumps out.

For more information use mindenhauntedforestwalk@hotmail.com.

www.mindenhills.ca

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ATTENTION ALL CRAFTERS!

The UFO's (Unfinished Objects Craft Group) will be meeting at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre on October 21 from 1-3 pm. This is a perfect opportunity for you to take time out of your busy schedule and join with other local crafters to work on your neglected projects. Bring a beverage, a snack and your project to the Cultural Centre. The group will be meeting the third Friday of each month from 1-3 pm.

TENDER OPPORTUNITIES

The following tender opportunities are available:

FIRE – RFT #FIRE22-001 for the Supply and Delivery of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Equipment

CSD – RFT #CSD22-001 for the Supply and Renovation of the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena Concession Stand

RFI #ENV 22-006 for Digital Access Cards for Waste Disposal Sites

Keep informed of current projects available to bid on by visiting our website at mindenhills.ca/tenders/ for a list of available tender opportunities.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Why is fire safety important?

Fire safety education and training is not only required by law, it's an extremely important skill to obtain regarding the safety of employees and others who might be in the building. Fires are damaging to property, cause injury or death, and can even eliminate jobs since many buildings destroyed by fire are not rebuilt. The way to prevent these dire outcomes is proper fire safety training.

CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE

Vendors wanted for the Christmas in the Village outdoor Artisan's Market at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, Saturday, November 19 from 11 am – 3 pm. Call 705-286-1260 x 542 or culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca for details.

2022 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

The voting period for Eligible Voters using **Internet or Telephone** commences on October 8, 2022, at 10:00 am until 8:00 PM on Monday, October 24, 2022.

Voting day is Monday, October 24, 2022, for **Traditional Paper Ballot**, at the Minden Community Centre from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Keep informed of current job postings by visiting our website at mindenhills.ca/employment-opportunities/ for a list of available employment opportunities.

WASTE REDUCTION WEEK

This week is Waste Reduction Week! Follow the Minden Hills Facebook page for daily waste reduction tips that you can easily implement at home.

Rolling with the weather

Despite the rain, more than 300 people, including this group of wagon riders going to the pumpkin patch at the Fall Festival at the Gardens event on Oct. 15 at Abbey Gardens, located close to Maple Lake.

The event raised more than \$3,000 for children's programming at Abbey Gardens.



Lachlan Greedy, three, of Minden gets a strike in hay bale bowling.



Taylr Boesveld, four, of Minden, peeks through a photo stand-in sign.



During the Fall Festival at the Gardens on Oct. 15, there was rain, hail, high winds, and even a light snowfall. Yet this didn't slow the Abbey Gardens staff down. "It's a great way for us to celebrate another successful growing season at Abbey Gardens," said Abbey Gardens director of operations, Ashley McAllister. "It's one of our favourite community events, and it's always so much fun."

MH residents can get chipped wood from town dumps

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Materials from a brush chipping program is available free to the public.

Nikki Payne, manager of Minden Hills' waste facilities, apprised council during its Oct. 13 meeting of a way to get rid of chipped brush that would benefit residents and the township.

She said staff is still accepting brush at the Ingoldsby and Iron Mine waste disposal sites as part of a woodchip management plan.

National Grinding, the company that was awarded the \$30,849 contract, is scheduled to complete chipping at the Ingoldsby site this month.

After the work is completed, there will be a stockpile of woodchips left at the site.

And what can be done with wood chips, you may ask? Given the time of year, one use that blooms in the minds of

gardeners is using the chips as a plant bed cover to save roots from frost.

Staff considered a number of options on how to get rid of the chipped material before settling on the public giveaway.

The first and most obvious was to have municipal staff transport the wood chips to the Scotch Line landfill for use as alternative daily cover.

"Unfortunately, that would require additional staff time and equipment to load the material and transport it to Scotch Line," Payne said. "While it would be nice to offset some of our sand, it's not [the] most favourable material to be used."

She said it could only be used as a supplemental covering. Besides, the purpose of chipping brush and separating leaf material is to divert it from the landfill site, she said.

Another option considered was for the municipality to sell the wood chips to the public. Certainly, that would have doused the public's demand for such material.

"This could potentially reduce the amount of material we're seeing leave (the dump)," she said. "As it is, the wood

chips are not freshly chipped from a tree. So they're not the most ideal."

But, she said, there could be a use for them in the community. And there's the directive from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks to timely remove the material from the landfill.

"Just trying to find the most efficient way to get them off-site and provide that service back to the residents," she said. "We also can't guarantee the quality of the material, so maybe selling them isn't the best option."

The wood chips are not inspected nor are they the most ideal type of wood chip as they are sourced from brush as opposed to trees. And that's why staff favoured giving away the wood chips to residents, free of charge.

Residents can access the wood chips during the regular operating hours of the site. Residents would be free to take as many of the wood chips as they'd like, but would be responsible for loading their own vehicle with the material.

UFO's landing at the Cultural Centre

by EMILY STONEHOUSE
Times Staff

It's a bird, it's a plane, oh, no, it's actually that unfinished art project that's been collecting dust for years.

If you are someone who dabbles in the creative world but lacks the initiative to follow through with a project, then you are not alone, and this is the group for you.

UFO stands for the UnFinished Objects Group, and allows the opportunity for like-minded individuals to get together and explore their artistic endeavours, while simultaneously encouraging them to complete the art projects that have been started, but never completed.

"It's a great chance to get involved in the community," said Nadine Papp, Minden Hills Cultural Centre staff and regular facilitator and participant in the UFO gatherings. "There's always room for more to join!"

Beyond adding some incentive for crafters to complete their projects, the UFO meetings also provide participants with the opportunity to make some new friends, learn tips and tricks from others, and engage in some lively conversation.

"These past few years have been tough on a lot of people," Papp said. "UFO prevents hermitism."

Papp is referring to the isolation and social withdrawals many practised - even subconsciously - throughout the pandemic.

While the UFO group did meet regularly over Zoom throughout the pandemic, Papp acknowledges that it feels nice to be able to safely meet in-person once again.

"I know lots of crafts have been started over the past few years," she smiles. "So, feel free to bring them all along!"

Traditionally, the UFO group has had a focus on "portable" art pieces, such as embroidery, knitting, crocheting, or quilting. While the group originated with a textile-based focus, all art forms are welcomed and encouraged.

Participating in UFO also provides attendees to check out the rest of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre space. This in-



The UnFinished Object (UFO) group meets the third Friday of every month at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre to complete a variety of artistic tasks and projects together. For more information, check out www.mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff

cludes the historic village and the Minden Hills Museum, Nature's Place, the Agnes Jamieson Art Gallery, and the Minden Hills Branch of the Haliburton County Public Library. All of these locations where there is admission is by donation, and provide a variety of displays, programs, and

interactive activities for visitors to enjoy.

The UFO program runs the third Friday of each month, from 1 to 3 p.m., starting on Oct. 21 in the Welch Room of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre. For more information, check out www.mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.



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Get out and vote

FOUR YEARS can be a long time.
That's the term for members of council in the Township of Minden Hills and the Township of Algonquin Highlands.

In contrast voting and learning about the candidates is not.

I love to complain like the next guy, but it's time to put up or shut up.

Vote. Let's see what happens.

Don't vote. Either way the governments for Algonquin Highlands and Minden Hills will be formed.

Democracy works best when the citizenship is engaged. A few weeks ago I welcomed the sight of 220 Minden residents coming out for the all-candidates meeting organized by the Rotary Club of Minden. I'm sure residents of Algonquin Highlands would have come out too, if given the opportunity.

Every beginning there is an end.

I tip my hat to the municipal politicians who served the past four years and have decided to step away.

Kudos to you all. I'm sure not everyone will have agreed with what you did or did not do, but you put yourself out there, which is to be commended in a world when people complain more than act.

Let's remember this when the next members of councils are doing their best and we don't agree with them.

They are people with families, friends and homes in the Highlands. They care to serve the community and have hearts and feelings like anyone. Be critical, but be respectful when sending in letters, making online posts or communicating by whatever means, whether in person or over the phone.

I wish the candidates vying for positions and wards luck in their efforts to serve the community by working on council. You're in for a challenging road.

Democracy is far from perfect. However, what some people in other parts of the world have to endure is far worst.

China is a case in point. Recently, their leader Xi Jinping, 69, is potentially moving towards being in power for the rest of his life. His first step is to assume another five-year term to break the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) "seven up, eight down" rule. This is the guideline that states Communist Party officials can only be promoted up to 67 and should retire at 68. If this happens he will serve his third term. Technically, this might not be the first time, but it's moving to a return to a leadership similar to when Mao ruled the country decades before. Xi is currently supreme leader and also holds the top three roles in the CCP as general secretary of the party, president of China and commander-in-chief of the People's Liberation Army. There isn't any choice for the people there. I contend most people just want

to make a living and, if offered an opportunity, issue a complaint. Good luck doing that in a place where one guy rules the country.

Maybe you're not happy with how this country is governed and have disdain for Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, but I can assure you what's happening in China is very unlikely to happen here, thankfully.

So, vote for who you want, but get out and vote.

There's plenty of ways to vote so don't complain because when it is all said and done we get what we deserve.

Yes, four years can be a long time, but it can be longer when you don't do anything to influence who is serving on council. So, vote like your next four years depends on it. Because it does.

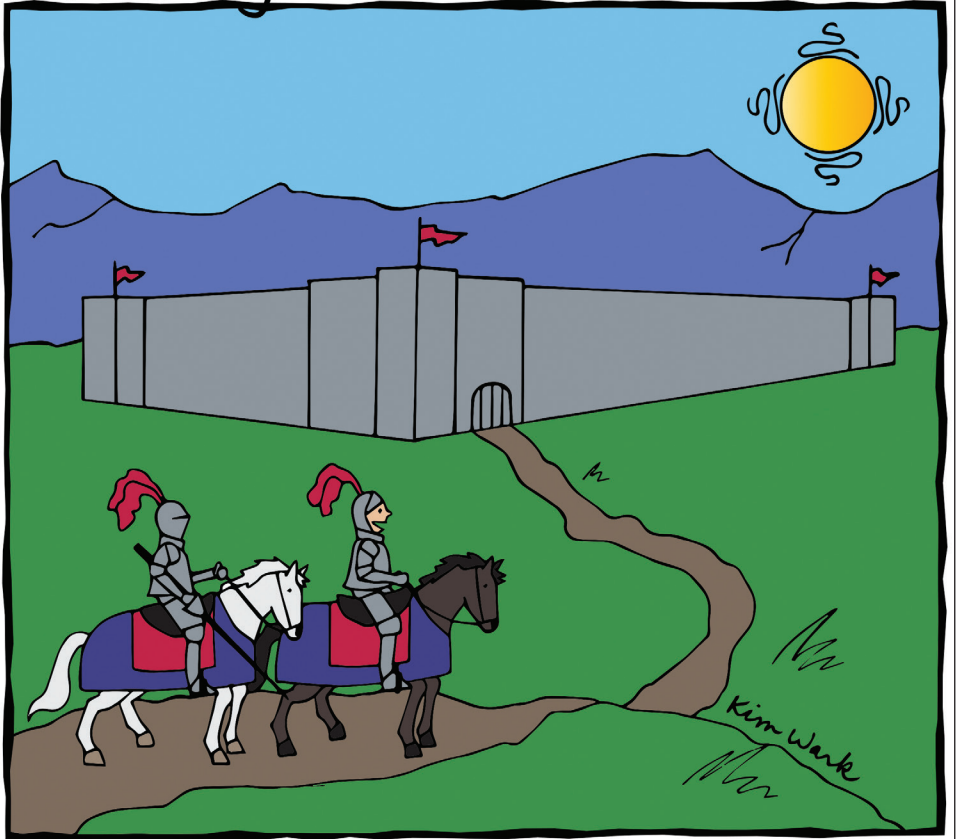
The 2022 Municipal and School Board Election is Oct. 24. Cast your vote up to 8 p.m. In Minden Hills you can vote by internet, telephone or traditional paper ballot.

In Algonquin Highlands voting can be conducted using the internet and with the telephone. Ensure you have a Voter Information Letter and be ready with your PIN and date of birth when voting.



DARREN LUM
Editor

Kwarky



"Finally, a fulfillment center!"

Wet dogs

THE OTHER day it occurred to me that I cannot definitively say whether my car smells like wet dog or my dog smell like wet car? We are well into the hunting season, and the lines have been blurred.

My strong suspicion is that my car smells like wet dog. I believe this to be the case primarily because my car does not charge into, lie down, and roll in every puddle, swamp, pond or mudhole it sees. My dog, on the other hand, believes these things are her birth right – and exercises that right every chance she gets.

A lot of people might suggest that the solution is an easy and obvious one. Just command your dog not to go into the water and get wet, they tell me.

Yeah right.

Here's the thing. They obviously have no experience with inadequately-trained dogs – especially of the flushing dog variety like my Rosie.

You see the sole purpose of a flushing dog is to cover territory in front of you in order to seek out and flush game, preferably within gun range. This means your average flushing dog covers a lot of ground and sees a lot of the world, which, if you recall, is two-thirds water.

And while it is easy to recall a dog when you see it eyeing a large body of water such as a pond or a lake, I have come to learn that there are countless little puddles and mudholes – or as Rosie calls them "rest stops" – within the average stretch of upland cover, that you never see until your dog is happily wallowing in them. These little gems are hidden in places like under the roots of blown down trees, in low spots

on the ground, in stretches of tall grass and in tire ruts. And a flushing dog – heck, any good dog – will find them all.

How sure am I of this? Well, if I was on one of those survival shows and was told I was going to be dropped into a desert with just one tool of my choice, I would choose a flushing dog and I would never go thirsty.

I used to think Rosie was being deliberately mischievous when she returned to the car soaking wet, but now I realize that she is just being thorough. After all, she is often called upon to retrieve ducks too. If I

know her, she's just checking the places other dogs might have missed.

Regardless, the end result is always the same.

Whenever we are about to go for a drive, Jenn opens the passenger-side door of my car, scrunches her nose, and then looks at me and says, "Why don't we take my car?"

That's why some people in town think I have a chauffeur.

Having a car that smells like wet dog is so commonplace among hunting dog owners that I am wondering why the car companies have not yet designed vehicles with a wet dog package – other than convertibles I mean.

All they would have to do is to throw in a rubberized seat cover, add a bit of drainage, a blow-dryer setting on the heater console, a towel rack, along with an on-board air-freshening unit or two. Problem solved.

I imagine it might take a while for the car companies to warm up to that idea though.

Which is OK. I'm saving a bundle on gas.



STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

IN OTHER WORDS

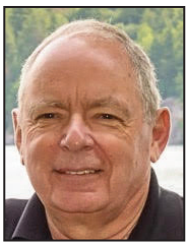
Columns and Letters to the Editor

Wondering about Ma Bell

I'VE BEEN wondering a lot recently about Bell. You know, the telephone company now into mobile phones, internet service, digital television, radio and television news, sports and entertainment programming, plus TV and film productions.

Bell no longer is just Bell Telephone or Ma Bell. It is Canada's largest telecommunications company with 52,000 employees.

Despite that, it seems to have problems providing consistent quality services to folks in Haliburton County. Not many people in the Highlands have words of high praise for the company.



JIM POLING SR.

From Shaman's Rock

That's not unusual: people tend to knock big companies that provide them services and charge them significant dollars for doing so. However, there have been some recent events that have me wondering about Bell service in the Highlands.

Early last summer people using Bell landlines or cell phones reported problems trying to reach municipal and health care offices. Minden Hills township reported Bell customers calling its offices were unable to connect.

Similar problems were reported by Haliburton Highlands Health Services and the Haliburton County Public Library.

The problems apparently were caused by an issue between Bell and a company it uses to service internet-based telephone connection software. Those problems have been resolved.

Also, the *Times* recently carried a story quoting Duck Lake Road area resident Paul Petric, who said that power outages kill his Bell landline telephone service, making it impossible to call 911 in an emergency. Cell service in his area is spotty, he said, so during power outages he has no reliable way of making an emergency call.

This is not supposed to happen because there apparently is a battery backup system to ensure landline telephone service during power outages, which are not a rarity in the Highlands.

Now there are rumours that Bell has stopped maintaining the battery backup system, leaving some areas without telephone service during planned or unexpected power outages. These are rumours which are neither denied nor confirmed by Bell.

Petric said he talked with a Bell representative in July and was told he would receive a callback within a week with answers to his questions. He still has not heard back.

One month ago I emailed Bell media relations and asked about the battery backup system and whether it is being maintained. I got a quick reply from Jacqueline Michelis who wrote:

"We have received your inquiry. We are looking into this and will get back to you."

I have not heard from her or anyone else at Bell since.

So here I am wondering about Bell's landline system and whether it is reliable when needed in times of emergency.

I'm also wondering why Canada's largest telecommunications company cannot quickly and simply tell people what is happening. Is there a battery backup system and is it being maintained? If not, what is being done to assure full time, reliable landline telephone service for emergencies?

It's not good enough to say use your cell phone. Not everyone has one. And, cell service in parts of the Highlands is totally unreliable. But that's a story for another day.

This is probably a small issue considering all the other things Bell has to deal with across its vast, Canada-wide network. Small or not, I would have thought this is something any company would want to get ahead of quickly.

The failure to do so raises questions about how serious Bell is about serving low population, high maintenance areas like the Highlands.

Its competitors already are eating into its customer base in some areas. Many people I have talked to are dropping Bell internet and television service and signing with Elon Musk's fledgling Starlink service. They say Starlink offers them much more for less monthly cost.

Perhaps Bell doesn't care and would be happy not providing services to the Highlands. If so, that's fine. Just communicate with people. Tell them what's happening so they can decide what alternatives they have.

I also would have thought that a company that makes billions of dollars a year in the communication business would be very aware of the dangers of poor communication. Poor communication causes misunderstandings, confusion and conflicts.

Most importantly, bad communication, or simply lack of communication, creates mistrust. And, mistrust certainly is not good for business.

Read to vote?

Eligible voters in the Township of Minden Hills will have received in the mail their Voter Information Letters for the 2022 municipal election.

Those who have recently been added to the voters list or have been issued a new Voter information Letter may be experiencing challenges voting by internet or telephone. If you are experiencing difficulties or are unable to access internet or telephone voting, please contact the clerk's department at 705-286-1260 ext. 9 or visit the administration building located at 7 Milne Street, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The 2022 Municipal and School Board

Election is Oct. 24, 2022. You can vote by internet, telephone or traditional paper ballot in Minden Hills. The voting period began Oct. 8 and continues to voting day, Oct. 24, 2022 until 8 p.m. In-person ballots can be cast on voting day, Oct. 24 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena and Community Centre located at 55 Parkside Street, Minden.

For election questions or support please, contact: Minden Hills clerks department 705-286-1260 ext. 9 or elections@minden-hills.ca.

Submitted

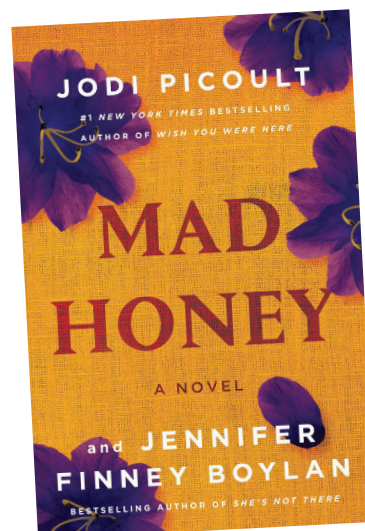


Power of performance

Performer Meghan Mainville pretends to live in prehistoric times during the performance by Les batons by Tara Luz Dance from Ottawa at the first of five staged shows organized by Razzamataz Kids' Shows! on Sunday, Oct. 16 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton. The hour-long performance focused on dance and music to spark imaginative play in children. See www.razzamataz.ca for future performances and other information.

/EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff

HCPL's Book of the Week



Olivia McAfee knows what it feels like to start over. Her picture-perfect life was upended when her husband revealed a darker side. She never imagined she would end up back in her sleepy hometown with her son, taking over her father's beekeeping business.

Then one day, Olivia receives a phone call: a girl is dead, and her son is being questioned by the police. Olivia is adamant that her son is innocent. But she would be lying if she didn't acknowledge the flashes of his father's temper in him, and as the case against him unfolds, she realizes he's hidden more than he's shared with her.

Mad Honey is a riveting novel of suspense, an unforgettable love story, and a moving and powerful exploration of the secrets we keep and the risks we take in order to become ourselves. Borrow *Mad Honey* from the Haliburton County Public Library today.

Recognizing excellence

Grade 10 Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS) students are recognized for their Grade 9 excellence, which included honours, awards and scholarships achieved last year, during the school's Honours and Awards Assembly on Friday, Oct. 7 at the school's gym in Haliburton. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff



Nicole Lee received the Eagle Lake Women's Award for Geography, Jim and Doris Cooper Award for Mathematics, Year 1 Academic French Award, and the Year 1 Applied Mathematics Award, and honours.



Melanie Walter received the Career Studies Award, Creighton Feir Canadian History Award, Haliburton Legion Year 2 Academic English Award, Legal Studies Award, Year 2 Drama Award, and Grade 10 honours during the Honours and Awards Assembly held at the school on Friday, Oct. 7.



The Grade 11 HHSS students, who earned distinction with their honours, awards and scholarships earned last year in Grade 10.



The HHSS Grade 12 students with their honours, awards, and scholarships awarded for their Grade 11 year. Photo edited for newspaper standards. /Photo submitted by HHSS



Abi Lewis receives congratulations for earning honours for her Grade 10 year during the Honours and Awards Assembly held at HHSS on Friday, Oct. 7.

Red Hawks make strides in Quinte

On Wednesday, Oct. 12 the Red Hawks cross-country team travelled to Brighton to run in the Quinte Invitational Meet at Dunnett Apple Orchards. At their first meet of the season, the Red Hawks demonstrated they are made of strength, speed, heart and determination. Approximately 45 schools attended the meet.

The Haliburton novice girls ran a strong team race to finish second overall, beating much larger schools like St. Peter's Catholic Secondary School and Cobourg Collegiate Institute. Leading the pack in the novice 4K race was Violet Humphries who finished 7th in a field of 65 runners. Grace Allder followed next with a strong run to finish 14th and Ella Gervais and Olivia Gruppe worked together on the course to finish 21st and 22nd respectively.

Novice boy Evan Backus made a strong debut in high school cross country. Backus ran a very competitive race, following up Humphries 7th place finish with a 7th of his own in a field of 54 runners.

Junior girl Erika Hoare, an OFSAA (Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations) veteran from last year, showed she is determined to make a repeat appearance at the provincial championships. Hoare stuck with a leading pack of girls throughout the first lap of the course, finishing in 8th place out of 54 runners.

Up and coming junior boy Haiden Bird completely destroyed his personal best in cross country, showing great strides of improvement since beginning last year as a rookie runner. Bird ran on pure grit to earn a top 10, finishing 7th, and earning his finish-line doughnut.

The full results from the Quinte Invitational



The Red Hawks cross-country team's Grace Allder, from left, Violet Humphries, Haiden Bird, Evan Backus, Olivia Gruppe, Ella Gervais and Erika Hoare represented Haliburton Highlands Secondary School at the Highlands at the Quinte Invitational Meet on Wednesday, Oct. 12 at Dunnett Apple Orchards in Brighton. /Photos submitted by Karen Gervais

Meet can be found at www.cossa.ca/bay-of-quinte-cross-country/.

On Wednesday, October 19, the team drove through rain to travel to Dagmar Ski Resort, just south of Uxbridge for one of the three Pre-OFSAA Invitational Meets offered by the host region. This meet gave the athletes a chance to preview the OFSAA course and get a taste of a big meet experience. Each division featured a field of approximately 200 runners.

Humphries once again showed she was a force to be reckoned with, running to an outstanding 22nd place finish out of 190 runners

on the 4K novice course. Teammate Allder followed up once again, and had a great finishing dash for the line landing her in 59th; and Ella Gervais used the hills to her advantage finishing in the top half in 84th.

Junior girl and track and field athlete Hannah Sharp made her cross-country debut on the tough 5K junior course. Sharp found the leap tough, as the hills taking her breath away, but she stayed strong to complete the course and finish 139th.

Junior boy Bird once again ran with grit and passion, working his way up to the 36th spot out of the 175 runners in his field. Bird

Violet Humphries (in red) runs past a competitor on her way to a top-10 finish among novice girls in the 4K race.



continued to stretch himself and improved on his kilometre pace time by a whopping ten seconds per kilometre from the previous run to finish the course in 18:55.

The full results can be found on trackdatabase.com for the Durham Series XC Meet 3.

Athletes prepare for Kawartha competition on Wednesday in Port Hope and the COSSA (Central Ontario Secondary Schools Association) Championships is the following Wednesday, also in Port Hope.

Submitted by Karen Gervais



Home Games
S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena

WWW.HUSKIESHOCKEY.CA

Saturday, October 29 @4:00 p.m.

Toronto Junior Canadiens

Saturday, Nov. 5 @4:00 p.m.

Tenton Golden Hawks

Saturday, Nov. 12 @ 4 p.m.

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Falcons out of Hawks reach

The Red Hawks player Jordanna Jennings guards Fenelon Falls player Regan Merklinger during Kawartha basketball action on Thursday, Oct. 13 in Haliburton. The Red Hawks lost 50-23. /DARREN LUM Staff



The Red Hawks players Tory Byrnes, from left, Rio O'Malley and captain, Avery Horner look for the rebound against the Fenelon Falls players.

Setting up for season

Red Hawks player Isaac Lee lunges for a return of serve, but after a teammate's deflection to leave him unable to make contact during Kawartha "league games" on Tuesday, Oct. 12 at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School in Haliburton. The Hawks finished winless, but pushed the Kenner Rams and the St. Thomas Titans with tight matches. These games determine standings for the Kawartha regular season and seeding for the championship in November. /DARREN LUM Staff



Red Hawks player Graham Backus attempts to block a tip by a Kenner Rams player at the net. Red Hawks volleyball results Crestwood beat HHSS 2-0 (25-8, 25-10) Kenner beat HHSS 2-0 (25-23, 25-20) St. Thomas Aquinas beat HHSS 2-0 (25-20, 25-21).



Weston Bowker positions for a return of serve during (with Evan Backus looking on) during Kawartha "league games."



GET TO KNOW THE HUSKIES: AIDAN SPOONER

by ALEX GALLACHER
Special to the Times

Newly acquired by the Haliburton County Huskies less than a month ago, goaltender Aidan Spooner has already become a fan favourite to watch at games. Standing at 6'7, Spooner has made the most of his time so far in Haliburton County by earning a 8-0 shut-out in his first game with the team against the Brantford 99ers.

Following that up with a huge win against the divisional rival Trenton Golden Hawks, Spooner has received a massive fan ovation for his efforts thus far on the ice. Becoming the second Huskies goalie to post a shut-out in his debut, it was tough challenge for general manager Ryan Ramsay to replace the Lakehead University bound Christian Cicigoi. However, early on it seems the Huskies have found a keeper with Spooner.

"It's been a very positive response so far from both the team and the fans," Spooner said. "I got a great group of teammates who welcomed me with open arms and you can't ask for more really. Coming to Haliburton, it's been fun, the fans are super energetic and you can really feel the excitement when stepping onto the ice."

Joining the team from the United States Hockey League's Sioux Falls Stampede, Spooner also spent time with the OHL's Kingston Frontenacs as well as the OJHL's Brampton Admirals and Newmarket Hurricanes. Making an impact right away, it's been all smiles thus far as the Huskies have logged their best start in franchise history.

Starting 19 games for the Frontenacs, Spooner had 10 wins and six losses with one playoff start coming last season.

His time in the States ended because he wanted to be closer to home.

"I started my year off in the USHL in Sioux Falls," Spooner added. "I really wanted to play closer to home. Being in the States was fun, but I felt for my game and development coming back to Canada was the best choice. I had known Ty Collins and he reached out and helped make it happen. We spoke and



Haliburton County Huskies goalie Aidan Spooner spent two seasons with the Ontario Hockey League's Kingston Frontenacs before being signed this off-season by the blue and white. /DARREN LUM Staff

once the ball got rolling it was great from there."

Early on in his career, Spooner played for a variety of fantastic junior teams. The Toronto Marlboros U15 and the Barrie Colts U18, however Spooner mentioned that one of his favourite experiences in hockey was winning the Minor Midget championships with the U16 York Simcoe Express.

Playing on a stacked team that included current Huskies player Collins, OHL players Evan Vierling and Cameron Butler, and 2020 NHL second overall pick Quinton Byfield, Spooner and his squad achieved victory and he looks to bring that some success to the Huskies.

Bringing his wealth of knowledge, Spooner will also serve as mentor to the young Huskies prospect, goalie Tyler Hodges. The rookie has played a handful of games this season and has a record of 4-1-0 (when the story was filed), including one shutout coming against the Mississauga Chargers. Spooner has

learned from a wide range of goalies including Ryan Dugas and current Ottawa Senators prospect Leevi Merilainen. He looks to help instill what he has learned over his career to ensure the Hodges-Spooner tandem becomes the league's most dangerous.

"Tyler and I click really well and he is a great fit for this team" Spooner said. "He is very open to learning new concepts and he has asked a lot of great questions so I'm happy to teach where I can. In Kingston, I learned so much there that I've been able to use here. I was taken as a 17-year-old and Ryan Dugas helped me so much while I was there. It was tough with the COVID year, but I was partnered with Leevi Merilainen and he played in super high levels in Finland so I learned so much from him and, honestly, a lot of what I am today was because of my time with the Fronts."

Standing at 6'7 and 205 pounds, Spooner is one of the league's tallest goalies and has the blessing of physical presence to be effective

in the net. Playing both a good ground game and air game, the Maple, Ontario native has been able to use the size to his advantage and made general manager Ramsay look smart to bring him in.

"I'm very thankful to have my height and I work into my game wherever I can," Spooner explained. "Not every goalie has that luxury, so I try to take advantage of that. I look at the game from the different angle, and block the net as much as I can, and with the additional fitness training that I've done it's been great."

His expectations for this season is to hoist the Buckland Cup and eventually win the national title. The Huskies made many moves this off season to bring in weapons alongside Spooner like Collins, Myles Perry and Alex Cunningham. However, many of the returning players have upped their games with Christian Stevens, Patrick Saini and Isaac Sooklal posting solid numbers, which puts them up with the best in the league at their respective positions. This team can accomplish a lot with this core, and Spooner is happy to be a part of it.

"Our expectations are to win it all, however you gotta take things day by day and not get ahead of yourself," Spooner added. "I was brought here to help the team do a job, and that job is to win. We have all been working super hard in practices and If we keep doing that, things will work out well."

Spooner has fit in well so far with both the players and coaches, and loves the way that he is able to offer feedback and have a very personal relationship with the coaches he works with. Knowing a few players prior to joining the team made the transition a lot easier, and Spooner credits Collins for being the driver force to helping land here in Haliburton. Beating the Golden Hawks in only his second game was a huge confidence for Spooner, as he was informed by all the returning players about the fierce rivalry.

As the season continues, Hodges and Spooner will look to share the duties in the crease and lead this team to the top spot.

Haliburton County Huskies WIN!!!

ADMIRALS 1 VS 5 HUSKIES

3 stars of the game presented by: HALIBURTON TIMBER MART

- ★ Declan Bowmaster (1 Goal)
- ★★ Sam Solarino (1 Goal, 2 Assists)
- ★★★ Tyler Hodges (21 Save WIN!!)

The Haliburton County Huskies swept the three star selections with Declan Bowmaster taking the first star, Sam Solarino the second star and Tyler Hodges with the third star following the win against the visiting Caledon Admirals on Saturday, Oct. 15 in Minden. /Submitted by the Huskies

Huskies score win

Haliburton County Huskies forward Sam Solarino, second from left, scores against Caledon Admirals goalie Antonio Rizzo in the second period at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena on Oct. 15, in Minden. The Huskies beat the Admirals 5-1. /Andy Corneau / OJHL Images



GENERATIONS

Fall is in the air at EarlyON and JD Hodgson Centre re-opens

It has become an annual tradition for us to visit Abbey Gardens for a fall program, and this year even a touch of rain and cooler temperatures couldn't dampen our fun. We headed off to the labyrinth for a leaf and pumpkin matching game, and then a nature scavenger hunt. Families made a pumpkin picture with the leaves they collected, and our facilitator Irene Heaven shared an autumn story. The children also decorated cookies (always a favourite activity) before hunting for a mini pumpkin gourd to take home! We look forward to our return visit in June.

If you are looking for something to do indoors with your little ones, we are offering programs in Minden, Wilberforce, Kinmount and Haliburton at a variety of locations and times. We are thrilled to announce that our new room in JD Hodgson School is ready and open for programs starting Wednesday, Oct. 12. Brenda looks forward to welcoming families back to our freshly remodeled space – come check it out! Fit Kids will continue at the Royal Canadian Legion once a week in October for active play, please see our calendar for upcoming dates.

We just finished up our infant massage classes in partnership with Point in Time, and the babies seemed to enjoy the experience by their happy smiles! It was a great opportunity for the parents to connect at this special



Fall fun for OEYC participants, which included parents/guardians and children recently at Abbey Gardens. /Submitted by Julie Bosker.

time with their children, and learn some techniques to help soothe and bond with them. As a follow up, we will be offering a Mother

Goose Program also with Point in Time, for families with a child up to two years old. These interactive sessions teach songs, fingerplays and lullabies, which are so wonderful for early language development, and fun to do together. They will be happening on Mondays at our new Haliburton centre, please register to secure your spot.

If you haven't already picked one up, the Haliburton County Public Library branches are distributing our Early Learning Fall Time Packs. The free packs contain a fall book, activity idea sheet, and creative materials suitable for children ages two to six (one per family). There will be other packs available

in November and December, so check our Facebook page for dates, and other program updates at your local EarlyON Child and Family Centre.

For more information, or Zoom schedules, please see our Facebook page or website. You can also call us, we love to connect with families! See www.oeyc.ca or at Facebook (www.facebook.com/oeyc.haliburtonvictoriabrock) or phone 705-324-7900.

Submitted by Julie Bosker, EarlyON Child and Family Centre program coordinator (Minden and Haliburton)

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Level: Advanced

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 15



Two-year-old Noah Gamblen brought his Grandpa for the field trip to Abbey Gardens. /Submitted by Julie Bosker

Canoe FM's Radio Playhouse presents *Shatter*

by **VIVIAN COLLINGS**
Times Staff

The Halifax Explosion that claimed nearly 2,000 lives happened more than a century ago, but the tragedy can be linked to comparable prejudices and reactions to present day crises.

In Canadian playwright Trina Davies' play, *Shatter*, she examines the aftershock of emotional, rather than physical, tolls the enormous explosion had on four characters in Halifax.

Canoe FM's Radio Playhouse program, hosted by John and Rita Jackson, is taking us back in time to broadcast the production over radio on Wednesday, Nov. 2 and Wednesday, Dec. 7 to conclude their 2022 season.

"I think that's really the point of Trina's work here, is how people's perceptions and prejudice is changed when they're put in extremely stressful situations. She focuses on what lessons we might learn, not just in the physical sense because of the explosion, but how it affects us as people," John said.

Radio Playhouse's production of *Shatter* will feature four familiar Highlands voices to act out the play: Kelsey Crowe, Hannah Klose, Amy Leise, and Andrew Case. All of them have performed in past productions in the Highlands.

Narration will be provided by John and Rita.

"The script itself really needs some actors who have great timing, who have a great rapport together because there's a lot of back and forth and overlapping," Rita said.

On Dec. 6, 1917, Canadian soldiers and families had already endured three grueling years of global war when a Norwegian steamship carrying relief supplies collided with a French steamship carrying tonnes of explosives in the Halifax harbour.

John and Rita said themes in the play can be compared to present disasters like the war in Ukraine.

"The news media at the time perpetuated a lot of these biases and prejudices against certain immigrants or certain people within the Halifax area and within Canadian society across the board as to who's to blame for this particular thing," Rita said.

While many were turning against each other in anger, the four main characters in *Shatter* searched for truth.

When first reading the play, John was reminded of the racism towards Japanese people during the Second World War and then towards those from the Middle East following the 9/11 crisis.

"[*Shatter* is] very thought-provoking in that sense because you hear first-hand through the actors how their lives changed and their perceptions changed as a result of this extremely devastating event," he said.

The dates chosen to air the first and second acts were intentional. Since the play is set in Canada during the First World War, the first act airs the week before Remembrance Day. The second airs the day after the 105th anniversary of the Halifax Explosion.

"This plays a significance to remembering the trauma, not just for those within the military, but also those outside the military. This shows the catastrophic casualties that happened in Halifax itself," Rita said.

The couple discovered Trina Davies' work while searching for a Canadian playwright after using primarily local works for the past season.

The play had never been adapted for radio before, so John and Rita worked closely with Davies to prepare it to be performed on Radio Playhouse.

Producing a radio play

Theatre productions are like an iceberg. Ninety per cent of the work put in to it can't be seen.

Radio plays are the same.

Selecting a script, negotiating rights, and finding suitable actors for the parts are the first steps.

The actors then work on their own for a length of time before coming together for rehearsals.

For the production of *Shatter*, rehearsals took place over Zoom, making it easier for everyone to be able to get together.

The actors have been rehearsing since the end of August.

After that, one day is selected for the recording process.

"We hope to always do the recording itself in a single take," John said. "It doesn't necessarily mean once and done. We might have to pause and repeat things during the

recording process, which can then be edited afterwards."

John noted this will be the first time anything has been recorded in Canoe FM's new recording studio space.

"Trina asks in the director notes to try and make it as lyrical as possible without singing. The actors have to act as if they're an ensemble of musicians and work very well together with different tones and movements," Rita said.

This can only be fully understood when heard for oneself, so make sure to tune in to Canoe FM at 6 p.m. on Nov. 2 and Dec. 7.

Shatter was originally produced by *Ships Company Theatre*, Parrsboro, NS in 2005.

Shatter is produced by arrangement with *Kensington Literary Representation*, 34 St. Andrew Street, Toronto, ON M5T 1K6 kensingtonlit@rogers.com.

Andrew Case is playing Brian Davidson and Kelsey Crowe is playing Jennie MacLean in Radio Playhouse's production of *Shatter*.
/VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff



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**Taking in
autumn's harvest**

Farmer Casey Cox harvests his oats, using a combine earlier this month at a property in Minden. While visitors come to the area for the changing autumn leaves, Cox and other area farmers are harvesting their crops. /Photos submitted by Guenter Horst



A Minden property was busy with harvesting activity when Cox was seen working the land earlier in the month.

A close-up shot of the oats before being harvested.



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Haliburton County municipalities recognizing Waste Reduction Week

Waste Reduction Week in Canada is from Oct. 17 to 23

Municipalities across Canada are affected by waste management issues every day.

Minimizing the amount of waste produced in a municipality reduces the need for landfill space, conserves natural resources, and decreases greenhouse gases.

"Waste Reduction Week in Canada" takes place Oct. 17 to 23. This is the 21st iteration of the week, which is recognized across the country by municipalities, schools, businesses, and non-profit organizations.

In recognition of Waste Reduction in Canada, the Township of Algonquin Highlands, Municipality of Dysart et al, Municipality of Highlands East, Township of Minden Hills, County of Haliburton, and Haliburton County Public Library, are partnering to share ways everyone can minimize their waste.

Each of the partners will use their social media channels to highlight the daily themes of Waste Reduction Week in Canada, supported by complementary book recommendations that help deepen the understanding and impact of our actions.

In addition, the Haliburton County Public Library is hosting in-person programming:

On Thursday, Oct. 20 at the Circle Time with EarlyON from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Wilberforce Branch Library, located at 1101 Holmes Road, Wilberforce and join EarlyON for eco books at Circle Time.

On Thursday, Oct. 20 at the Family Storytime from 1:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the Dysart Branch Library, located at 78 Maple Avenue in Haliburton. Children and their caregiver will enjoy environmental-themed books and songs.

On Friday, Oct. 21 the Friends of the Library Book Nook Sale is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Minden Hills Branch Library, located at 176 Bobcaygeon Road in Minden.

Come browse a huge selection of lightly-read books, and support the circular economy.

Be sure to follow your local municipal, county, and library social media channels for daily tips and hints on how you can reduce, reuse, and recycle your waste.

Together we can all make a difference!

*Submitted by Municipality of Dysart et al
environmental manager, John Watson*



Township of Algonquin Highlands

NOTICE – SPECIAL MEETING of COUNCIL

TAKE NOTICE that there will be a Special Meeting of Council on **Thursday, October 27, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.** in the Council Chambers located at 1123 North Shore Road, Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss:

1. Maintenance of Bear Lake Road.
2. The Township's Website Redesign

Please Note: Due to COVID-19 safety protocols, public participation in meetings of Council, remains virtual at this time. Members of the Public are invited to observe the Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link which can be found on the published Council Meeting Agenda on the Township's website at www.algonquinhighlands.ca

Dated this 19th day of October, 2022.

Dawn Newhook
Municipal Clerk
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Rd.
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1
T: 705-489-2379 Ext. 333
E: dnewhook@algonquinhighlands.ca

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8	1	6	9	3	7	2	5	4
4	2	7	5	8	6	3	9	1
7	6	5	1	9	4	8	3	2
9	4	3	8	2	5	1	6	7
1	8	2	6	7	3	9	4	5
6	7	8	2	4	9	5	1	3
2	5	1	3	6	8	4	7	9
3	9	4	7	5	1	6	2	8



2022 E-lection
www.minden hills.ca



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Oct 24, 2022

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~Haliburton Highlands
is looking for an office administrator to work with our Board and members.

The ideal candidate will have a positive and helpful attitude and enjoy working with people. This is a part time position of 17 hours/week. Bookkeeping skills, computer skills and website management skills are required. To apply for this job, send your cover letter and resume to:
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PO Box 931, Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0.
Email: haliburtonarts@haliburtonarts.on.ca.

The deadline for submission is Monday October 31st at 4:00 pm.

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Glasnost in Gelert?



American president George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev met in effigy on County Road One last week in what could be called The Snowdon Saucer Summit. George Anderson engineered the meeting as part of a Halloween display for his yard.

Local seminar will focus on safety for adults, kids

by Susan Grober

Do you feel nervous about walking the streets at night, but still don't feel up to learning about karate chops or judo kicks as self defense?

Well, a local seminar on personal safety may be just the thing for you. Presented by the Family Violence Co-ordinating Committee and sponsored by the Canadian Calorie Counters, the seminar will be held at Archie Stouffer Elementary School on November 13 at 7 p.m. The idea came from requests from June Phillips of Minden who felt a workshop was needed in the area.

Self protection for adults and children and domestic violence will be the topics of discussion, says Constable Mike Maybee of the Minden OPP.

"We're not talking about self defense, but what you should and shouldn't do in certain situations, and things that parents should be thinking about when they're discussing safety matters with their children," he says.

Prevention is an often over-looked method of self protection. "Primarily, being aware of your circumstances and your options at any time in any situation" is important, says Maybee, who offers some examples of common mistakes people make, risking their safety.

"When driving through the city, how many people lock the doors of their car? How many people take a short cut as opposed to the lit way on a deserted stretch of highway, and how many people

(more on page 2)

Hospital expansion still awaits approval

MPP Dennis Drainville says bureaucracy and bigger issues are delaying decision

by Jay Kerr-Wilson

The Ontario government is still committed to building a chronic care facility in Haliburton County, but residents shouldn't expect a ground breaking ceremony in the near future says Victoria-Haliburton's MPP.

"I think we're looking at the issue being decided within a year's time," Dennis Drainville told *The Times* in an interview on Friday. "I don't consider that too long when you're dealing with

such a huge government."

During last summer's election campaign, Bob Rae visited the riding twice to offer his support for Drainville's candidacy. On both occasions he promised that if the NDP were elected, Haliburton's chronic care facility would be built.

Ever since Ontario voters swept the NDP into office, Drainville says he's had Haliburton residents asking him when construction of the facility will begin.

But several factors are affecting the government's ability to immediately fulfill the election promise, he says.

The NDP made campaign commitments with the expectation that the party would inherit a balanced budget from the Liberal government. As it turns out, Ontario is running a projected \$2.5 billion deficit for this year, forcing the NDP to re-examine its financial situation.

Drainville says the hospital expansion has to compete for the government's

attention with a lot of other issues.

"The government is facing significant problems with energy, the environment, education, health and the deficit, all very pressing concerns," he said. "The Haliburton Hospital expansion take its place amid all these concerns."

One of the obstacles that Drainville faces in trying to usher the chronic care facility through the system is that, as a rookie MPP, he's still learning how

(more on page 3)

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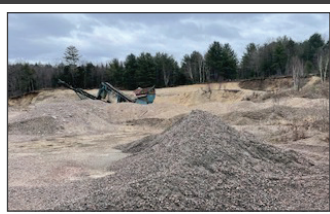
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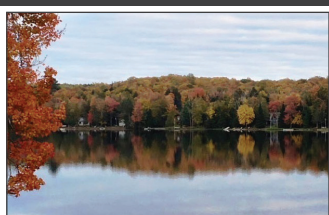
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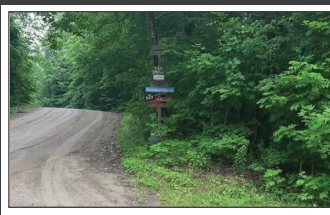
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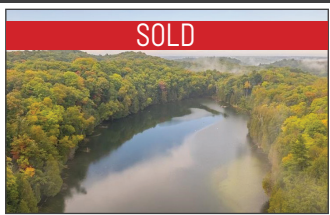
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- Desirable Area Btwn Carnarvon & Haliburton
- Many Upgrades, Needs Finishing Touches!



Greg Stamp*
457-2128 x 128

Beautiful Country Home \$699,000

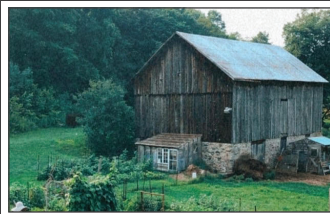
- 3 Beds / 2 Bath, 1800 Sq Ft
- 1.39 Acres, Huge Pond w/Sand Beach Area
- Detached 17x30 Garage/Workshop
- Access to Clement Lake Boat Launch



Melanie Vigrass*
286-2138 x 232

Wiley Lake \$299,000

- Secluded parcel with 130 FT of lake frontage
- Clean shoreline with North-Western exposure
- 2.3-acres to build your dream Haliburton escape
- Quiet, no motor lake with great fishing & paddling!



Lindsay Wilkinson*
286-2138 x 223

Tory Hill Home \$799,000

- 3 Bedrooms / 1 Bathroom, 1400+ Sq Ft
- Sits on 2.96 Acres, Cutest Little Hobby Farm!
- Beautiful Gardens & Very Well Maintained Barn



Andrea Wilson**
705-457-6694

Gull River \$600,000

- 3 Beds / 2 Baths, 2500+ SqFt
- 1.77 Acres of Privacy, 20x20 workshop
- 3-Season (10x14) Sunroom
- 580ft of Pristine Riverfront on Gull River

We are open for business!

Our REALTORS will be following certain protocols to ensure our clients' safety.

Contact us to learn more about our updated practices.

CENTURY 21

Granite Realty Group Inc.

BROKERAGE

**PROUDLY PART OF THE HALIBURTON
HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY!**

Haliburton 705-457-2128 | Minden 705-286-2138 | Carnarvon 705-489-9968 | Kennisis/Redstone 705-754-1932